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BUILDERS OF NOVA SCOTIA.*

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II.

THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES.



THE Church of England had its teachers in the province when Nova Scotia became an English possession by the treaty of Utrecht, and eventually when Halifax was founded it became practically a State Church for very many years in the formative period of English institutions. Army chaplains necessarily for a while performed religious services at Annapolis, but the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel extended their operations to the province as early as 1722. The Reverend Mr. Watts was the first schoolmaster and missionary who was paid by that old and historic institution so intimately associated with the establishment of the Church in all the colonies of the British crown. St. Paul's Church—the oldest Protestant church in the Dominion—was commenced in 1750 on its present site, with materials brought from New England, and was opened for service in an incomplete state on the 2nd Sep-

tember, 1750. The present St. Paul's had additions made in the course of a hundred and fifty years, but its main framework is the same as in the middle of last century. Old St. George's, the next oldest historic church, always kept in repair since 1760, is to be seen on Brunswick Street. It is now always called the "Little Dutch Church" because it was built for German converts soon after the completion of St. Paul's. A church first called "Mather's" in honour of the famous Cotton Mather, of New England, was built in 1760 on Hollis Street, for the Congregationalists, many of whom came from New England, and the Reverend Mr. Cleveland, great-great-grandfather of a president of the United States, was the first minister.

The coming of the Loyalists gave a great impulse to the growth of the Church of England, as nearly all of the twenty-eight thousand people, who found their way to the maritime provinces, belonged to that faith. Over thirty clergymen sought refuge in these provinces, between 1776 and 1786, and the majority made their homes in the new colony of New Brunswick. A very few soon left for England, or returned to the United States, where